**Post Covid Vaccine information sheet**

**Today you have received COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca** (updated 4-8-2021)

**If this is your first dose, please book your second dose in advance.**

We highly recommend that you book your second dose before you leave, as this will reserve it in our supply. Please put this in your calendar but we will also send you a reminder 24 hours before. If you are unsure whether you can make that time, please leave it booked until you are certain what time/date after you can come in. The second dose should be performed around 12 weeks after the first. In situations of high community transmission, 6 - 8 weeks is also an option. We will send you a sms and please fill in the consent again on the link.

**What side effects can you expect?**

The second dose is much less likely to cause any reaction than the first,

It is likely that you will feel unwell in the next three days. The most common side effects are injection site tenderness/pain, fatigue, headache, muscle/joint pain, fever and nausea. Fever and fatigues and chills are the most common. The younger you are, the more likely you are going to experience these side effects. Paracetamol and rest should help these symptoms.

A sore throat, runny nose or a cough are NOT expected side effects and so please book a telehealth appointment if these occur. We may recommend a COVID swab if this occurs. **Rare** side effects that have been reported after **COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca** are:

* + Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis): This occurs in approximately 1 in a million people getting this vaccine.
  + A rare side effect of an unusual condition involving blood clotting and low blood platelet count (TSS) may occur after of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Extremely rare reports (in the order of 1.5 per million) of it occurring after the second dose is being monitored.
  + The blood clots can occur at different parts of the body, including the brain (this is called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis) and the abdomen. The low level of blood platelets can cause bleeding.
  + The symptoms of this condition mostly start between 4 and 42 days after vaccination.
  + The condition can be tested and diagnosed early. The earlier it is diagnosed the better the outcome.

**Seek urgent medical attention if:**

You think you are having an allergic reaction. Call 000 if you experience severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat, severe unremitting headache or collapse.

Please seek medical attention early if you develop:

1. A persistent headache with additional features:
   * appears at least 3-4 days after vaccination
   * simple pain killers may alleviate the headache but the headache persists
   * may be worse when lying down
   * may be accompanied by nausea and vomiting
2. Neurological symptoms such as:
   * blurred vision
   * difficulty with speech
   * drowsiness
   * seizures
3. Shortness of breath
4. Chest pain
5. Swelling in your legs
6. Persistent abdominal (belly) pain
7. Tiny blood spots under the skin away from the site of injection

**Expect to receive an SMS**

It is important that we find out if you have any reactions/side effects other than those listed above. As such, you will receive a number of text messages starting 3 days after the vaccine, from SMARTVAX, asking if you experienced any adverse reactions that are continuing or unexpected. Don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

**Evidence of your COVID-19 vaccine**

Evidence of your Covid-19 vaccination can be found in your immunisation history record through Medicare Online, myGovt or the Express Plus Medicare app. There is also an app called Healthi which can be linked to you my health record for access on your phone. Alternatively, we can print a copy of today’s immunisation, please ask for a copy before you leave.